



Wilderness Station

March Programs

Parks & Recreation

Established March 2001, vol. 1 - 04

Frog and Toad I.D. Training Workshop

"Froggy Went A Courtin'"

Join the Tennessee Amphibian Monitoring Program (TAMP) for an evening of free froggy fun. TAMP is a statewide, volunteer based multi-agency effort to assess the current status of amphibians in the state. TAMP trained volunteers, called Frogloggers, collect important information that will be used to help scientists identify population trends and potential dangers to amphibians and the environment.

Learn to identify Tennessee's frogs and toads by sight and by their mating (or courtin') calls. While Froggy is a courtin', Tennessee's Frogloggers are a countin'. The approximately four hour long workshop includes an indoor training session with slides and sound and is followed by a trip to the field to hear frogs and toads in their natural setting. Inclement weather is often and the best time to hear frogs and toads, so be prepared for rain and mud. Participants must provide their own flashlight for the walk to the nearby pond.

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Good News for the Critters!

Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation (the Wilderness Station + Greenway/Wetland Staff) will begin focusing program efforts towards the preservation, conservation and creation of wildlife habitats to enhance the quality of life for both plants and wildlife through-out our community. This important challenge will be implemented by teaching "BACKYARD HABITAT" AND "SCHOOL- YARD HABITAT" Programs to the community and by partnering with the local school systems to teach how to create areas that will attract (and/or keep) wildlife in each of our neighborhoods. Over the

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Photo by Bob English

Participants of all ages are welcome, but the program is best suited for ages 12 and up. Please pre-register by calling the Wilderness Station at 217-3017. Program is limited to 25 participants. **March 20th, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

DISCOVER THIS EXCITING WORLD AND WATCH HOW NATURE BRINGS MUSIC TO YOUR EARS THE NEXT TIME YOU TAKE AN EVENING STROLL. Whether you are walking along the greenway, visiting Murfree, Oakland, or Blackfox Springs, or just live in a neighborhood like those near Todd Lake, Lytle Creek, or the East, Middle, and West Fork of the Stones River. etc... Murfreesboro is loaded with places to hear and see frogs. **Be a part of the team that helps keep this important music alive and well in our city!** Think how much fun it will be to pass this new skill along to the grandchildren!

Note: For more information on the background of TAMP and why it is so important to inventory our area's frog and toad population, log onto the following website or look up the key words "Frogs of Tennessee." The site has beautiful photos of the 25 species of frogs found in Tennessee AND their calls! (Other fun keywords include "Tennessee snakes", salamanders, endangered species, butterflies, and more!).

www.state.tn.us/twra/tamp

Green Tree Frogs live in semi-permanent to permanent shallow bodies of water (lakes, ponds, streams or ditches) throughout Tennessee. Its voice is similar to the sound of a loose banjo string.

Frog and toad songs are given easy to remember sounds, i.e., tapping two rocks together slowly, then building in speed, then slowing down once again, resembles the song of the Northern Cricket Frog. To see frog species and hear their calls, learn their habitat, etc., go the internet and type in the keyword **"Tennessee Frogs and Toads."**

WILDFLOWERS... now showing at BARFIELD CRESCENT PARK

Get out your walking shoes... and favorite wildflower book and stroll through the wilderness in search of these spring beauties... plus ferns, mosses, mushrooms, etc....

Cut-leaved Toothwort	Downy Wood-mint
Wild Columbine	Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Early Saxifrage	White Trout Lily
Shooting Stars	Toadshade Trillium
Rue-anemone	Sedum
Common Blue Violet	Virginia Bluebells
Miami-mist	Dame's Rocket
Blue-eyed Grass	Lime Stonecrop
Spring Larkspur	Blue Phlox
Leavenworthia	False Garlic
Prickly Pear Cactus	Fire Pink
Cardinal Flowers	and more???

An awesome site for photos and information on wildflowers, trees, cedar glades, etc. can be found at:

www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages or simply search for "Bioimages"

SPRING BREAK CAMP

Coming

APRIL
5-7

Ages
9-12

8am – 4pm

Only \$30
for a 3 days
of fun
hiking, disc
golf, fishing,
river
exploration,
games,
crafts, etc.

RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED –
CALL

217-3017

past decade, the City of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Dept. has been working with the Corp of Engineers and the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency to preserve and protect our community's special natural areas. These areas have been designed to provide passive recreation opportunities to residents while protecting the natural resources of each unique ecosystem. Blackfox, Nickajack Trace, Murfree Springs, and Oakland Springs (wetland areas) are all part of the Stones River Greenway System and watershed. Murfree Springs and the Oakland Springs parks are evolving in phases with the next phase including colorful interpretive signs describing common plant and animal life found at each location.

Siegel Elementary School Park, a new neighborhood/community park site scheduled to begin construction by late summer, will become another special natural park site. **What makes this site special will be how the local city school and park officials will work together with the community to create a natural habitat area.** The fourteen acre site is currently an open field. The new look for the site will include native plants and trees that are known to provide food, water, nesting, and cover for a wide variety of wildlife. Numerous city/county school classroom projects will be included as this park evolves. The park will also include opportunities to teach Tennessee history, geography, biology, math, etc. Watch for more announcements in the near future detailing this exciting addition to our city.

It's good news for everyone (especially the critters). "We're all in this together," after all! We share the same space, water, air, and need good safe healthy places to call home. Develop backyard habitats in your neighborhood. Tell your neighbors to get on board and include native plants and trees in your spring plantings. Attend special programs throughout the city to learn more, + go to "Family of Nature Websites" or www.birdsite.com/backyard

Backcountry Camping

Adventure into the world of **backpacking and camping** at Barfield Crescent Park's Backcountry Campground. The campground is a primitive walk-in campground only – no car camping here! Take the paved accessible trail or hike the rugged footpaths. Either route, you'll end at a beautiful meadow where deer, turkey, owls, etc. call their home.

First, call the Wilderness Station. Our Outdoor Adventure Staff will schedule you to attend a fun briefing to review the park's campground policies and teach you the latest "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics practiced in wilderness areas worldwide.

Rent a tent or backpack at "the Station" or bring your own. The campground is designed for young families, scouts, youth groups, and your neighborhood buddies. You can explore the river and five miles of trails on your own or participate in a staff led activity. Call for information and campsite availability. Note: The campground is open every Friday and Saturday night. The staff reserved the right, however, to refuse campers requests when previously planned programs are scheduled and/or when staffing is unavailable.

How to contact us:

Wilderness Station Phone: 217-3017 **Location:** 697 Barfield Crescent Road (Exit 81 off I-24, Also off - S. Church / Shelbyville Hwy.231)

Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Office: 890-5333, Director - Dennis Rainier, C.P.R.P. & Deputy Director-Lanny Goodwin, C.P.R.P

Mailing Address: Wilderness Station, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 748, Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Wilderness Station Staff: Deborah Paschall, Program Coordinator, C.P.R.P,

Rachel Carrigan: Assistant Program Coordinator

Gladys Robertson: Shop Manager

Birthday Parties

PROGRAM TOPICS INCLUDE: Butterflies – Insects – Reptiles & Amphibians – Dora the Explorer – Birds

Make your party reservation today! See Group Wilderness Station Group Activities Information for more details!

Retreat Room Rentals

The Wilderness Station Retreat Area is an indoor/outdoor meeting space for up to 75 people. The facility has heat/AC, or if the weather is nice, you may open the large doors to let the outdoors in! A TV/VCR, room partition, projector screen, and dry erase boards are available for use. The room is great for parties, weddings, reunions, club events, business meeting, church parties, workshops, baby showers, and more...

RETREAT ROOM RENTAL FEES

Weekdays: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. = \$10.00 per hour*

4 p.m. – 8 p.m. = \$15.00 per hour

8 p.m. – 10 p.m. = \$ 22.50 per hour

Weekends & Holiday

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. = \$18 per hour

4 p.m. – 8 p.m. = \$24 per hour

8 p.m. – 10 p.m. = \$31.50 per hour

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Weekly Programs

BUDDING BIOLOGISTS

TUESDAYS: 4 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

EXPERIENCE THE FUN AND MYSTERIES OF NATURE. EXPLORE THROUGH HANDS ON EXPERIMENTS AND DISCOVER NATURE'S WONDERS. REGISTRATION PREFERRED TWO HOURS PRIOR. **PROGRAM TOPICS:** MAR. 2 – THE FOOD CHAIN, MAR. 9 – GET ME HOME – INTRO TO ORIENTEERING, MAR. 16 – COLOR ME GREEN, MAR. 23 – SPRING HAS SPRUNG, MAR. 30. – FROGS, TOADS, SNAKES, & TURTLES

YOGA IN THE WILDERNESS

TUESDAYS: 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Cost \$1.50 – Adults Enjoy this gentle hike to the river overlook and workout with new friends. EVERYTHING IS PROVIDED. (Inside if weather is bad.) Call Denise for more details.

WILD THINGS

WEDNESDAYS: 8:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 10:30 A.M.

THIS IS A YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM FOR TODDLERS THROUGH AGE 4. THREE SESSIONS ARE OFFERED EACH WEDNESDAY, BUT YOU MUST CALL THE TUESDAY BEFORE FOR RESERVATIONS. ONLY \$1 PER CHILD. **ACTIVITIES BEGIN A LIFETIME OF ADVENTURES AND LOVE FOR THE WILDERNESS.** **PROGRAM TOPICS INCLUDE:** MAR. 3 – FAST OR SLOW, MAR. 10- EAST, WEST, WILD THINGS ARE BEST, MAR. 17- LUCK 'O THE GREEN. MAR. 24 – WHIRLING WIND, MAR. 31 – SILLY SLITHERING SNAKES

LINE DANCE

SATURDAYS: 3 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Scoot your boots with this fun group. Instructions for new dances and newcomers! All skill levels welcome. Only \$1 per person. Phyllis Petty, Instructor

SATURDAYS

BUILD A BIRDHOUSE: March 6th, 10:30 a.m. – As spring approaches, birds are in search of nesting sites to raise their young. Come out to the Wilderness Station where we will be constructing birdhouses just in time for these birds. All wood and other materials will be provided and carpentry skills are not required however reservations are so call early! Ages 9 (with an adult) and up. Reservations must be made by Thursday, March 4th – Cost \$ 7.00

EXPLORE THE STONES RIVER: March 13th at 2 p.m. Meet at the Wilderness Station for a hike to the West fork of the Stones River to explore the many aquatic creatures there. Wear old clothes and shoes. Ages 9 and up. ~ Free!

T.A.M.P. (TN AMPHIBIAN MONITORING PROGRAM) Workshop – March 20th from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Join Bob and Pandy English here at the wilderness Station for a training workshop to allow people to monitor frogs in their area. The day will include a slide show presentation to familiarize us with our resident amphibians, instructions on how to identify frogs by sight and sound, and finally some hands-on experience in how to monitor these critters. Reservations are required by March 18th and are limited to 25 participants. ~ Free!

SPRING WILDFLOWER HIKE: March 27th at 11 a.m. Believe it or not spring is officially here! On this 2-mile hike we will explore the wonderful display of wildflowers that nature puts on every year. Ages 12 and up.~ Free!

COME FLY WITH ME! – March 27th at 1 p.m. Join us in playing with the March winds. Meets at the Wilderness Station to construct your very own kite and then give it a try at the park. All materials will be provided and reservations are required. ~ \$ 2.00

Please see the following page 7 for
a full description of the great
programs available for groups
at Barfield Crescent Park and the
Wilderness Station!

For spring group reservations...

Call SOON!!!

217-3017

Wilderness Station – Group Activities

**SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS – SCOUT TROOP BADGE WORK – YOUTH GROUPS OUTINGS
BUSINESS TEAM BUILDING RETREATS – FAMILY GROUPS – NEIGHBORHOOD OUTINGS**

PROGRAM TOPICS INCLUDE: Programs are designed to be age appropriate – Toddlers to Adult Groups!

Nature Awareness

Animal senses
Predator/prey
Fossils & rocks
Bird Behavior & I.D.
Basic Botany (Plants)
Trees (each season)
Reptiles & Amphibians
Frogs of Tennessee
Butterflies
Dragonflies
Insects
Endangered Species
Owl Pellets (\$3 fee)

Wilderness Skills

Animal tracking
Leave No Trace (ethics)
Orienteering (maps & Compass)
Wilderness Skills
Team Building
Backyard Habitat

Camping and/or Campfire fun

Campfire Program/s'mores & more
The Night Sky
Campfire Building
Owl Prowl
Backpacking – How & What to pack
Stones River (West Fork) Exploration
Nights Sounds & games

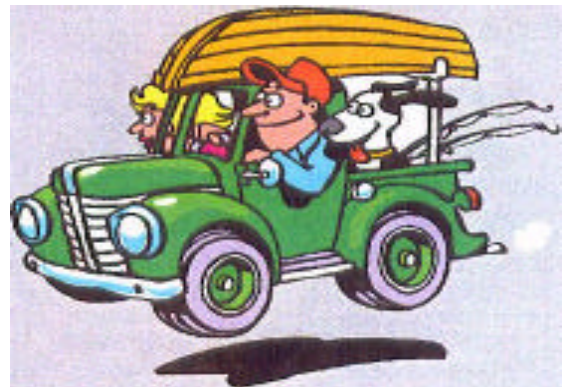
GROUP CAMPING AVAILABLE – CALL FOR DETAILS!

***FOR RESERVATIONS AND MORE INFO...
PLEASE CALL 217-3017. PLAN AHEAD
TO SECURE YOUR DATE.***

Scheduling: Large groups will be scheduled on Thursday or Friday of each week. Group visits must be scheduled one month in advance. Programs are approximately 1 hour in length unless multiple topics are chosen. If you choose a variety of topics, 30 minutes is the maximum for program lengths. We accommodate larger groups by organizing small-group rotations. Group maximum is 80 participants. Rotation group maximum is 20. The staff reserves the right to make alterations in this set-up based on topics selected and part-time staff availability. **Note:** Groups arriving later than the scheduled arrival time will forfeit the first activity without refund and end the event at the scheduled time.

Fees: A fee of \$ 1 per activity/topic will be charged for each participant for the day. (For example, 10 participants in 3 activities will be charged \$ 30.) There is a minimum fee of \$10. Teachers/Leaders and adult chaperones are free. This fee must be paid upon arrival.

Permission/Release Form: A waiver/permission form must be signed by every adult participating in activities, and by the parent/guardian of every minor. Waiver forms will be provided when you make your reservation via fax (if fax is available). Otherwise, waivers may be mailed or picked up. You must present all participants waivers upon arrival.



Picnic Shelters: If you plan to eat lunch at the park, it is recommended that you reserve a picnic shelter by calling the main office of **Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation at 890-5333**. If you choose not to make a reservation, shelters are available on a “first come, first served” basis.

Wilderness Station Supply Post (Snack and Gift Shop): Snacks, drinks and nature themed toys and gifts may be purchased during your visit. Group leaders are encouraged to allow participants the opportunity to browse and shop. Please instruct your group to enter in an organized fashion – no more than 20 participants at once. Purchases assist the Wilderness Station and show your support for the facility. **Note:** A “tip type” jar by the checkout register is marked **“Wildlife Fund”**. Donations are used to purchase bird seed, corn for deer/turkey, nectar plants, feeders, and various wildlife habitat enhancement items. Please inform your group that this donation opportunity is available. Thanks!